

# Corporation for National and Community Service

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## AWARD NOTIFICATION: SENIOR CORPS RSVP EXPANSION GRANTS

### Background

Throughout the country, Senior Corps engages the skills, talents, and experience of more than 245,000 Americans age 55 and over to meet a wide range of community challenges through a network of three programs — the Foster Grandparent Program, the Senior Companion Program and RSVP. Through Senior Corps, older adults make a real difference through the lives of individuals and as they help increase the capacity of nonprofit organizations, community agencies, faith-based and tribal organizations throughout the United States. The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) awards grants to these local organizations and public agencies to administer these programs.

RSVP strengthens public and nonprofit agencies by building the infrastructure needed to efficiently and effectively mobilize experienced and skilled volunteers with vital programs and services. One of the largest volunteer efforts in the country, RSVP engages more than 208,000 older adults, retired or not, who use their skills and life experience in volunteer service that helps solve challenges facing communities. RSVP volunteers serve in diverse volunteer roles that may include: intergenerational education; access to care including opioid abuse/prevention; transportation services that support aging in place; housing services and activities in evidence-based programs. Additionally, they help increase the capacity of local organizations by recruiting and managing other volunteers.

A primary goal for CNCS is to increase the impact and reach of national service in America's communities. In January 2017, Senior Corps opened the 2017 RSVP Expansion Competition with a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). This national competition was an opportunity for communities—with no current RSVP program—to apply for funds and establish new programs that address national priorities. The response was tremendous. Requests for funding outpaced the available funding amount by more than five times resulting in a highly competitive applicant pool. In accordance with the criteria and process established by the NOFO, 50 organizations were selected to be awarded grants. Together, these grants total a funding amount of \$5,370,177 for a total of 7,766 new RSVP volunteers.

### Award Information

**Recipient:** North Iowa Area Community College  
500 College Drive  
Mason City, Iowa 50401 – 7299  
(641) 422-4303

**Program Contact:** Molly Anderegg, [andermol@niacc.edu](mailto:andermol@niacc.edu)

**Award Amount:** \$77,000 per year/3 years (pending annual appropriations)

**Target Geography:** Franklin and Mitchell Counties, Iowa

### **Program Summary:**

North Iowa Area Community College serves as a major educational, cultural, and economic development partner for the North Central Iowa region and will recruit 118 RSVP volunteers to serve in intergenerational educational programming. The majority of volunteers will serve in elementary and middle schools tutoring and mentoring students who are not reading at grade level. RSVP activities will include serving as a Reading Buddy, Reading Coach, and/or Pen Pal volunteers. It is expected that, by the end of the three-year grant, 30% of the kids in the Reading Buddy Program will improve their reading, 84% of kids tutored in school will improve by one or more grade levels, and 20% of middle school students with a Reading Coach will improve their reading skills.